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Chelsea Robertson
Executive Director

Who We Are:

The Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board (STC) provides comprehensive planning for the coordinated growth and development of Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties. By taking a regional approach, STC works to develop strategies to address shared problems, opportunities, and trends while helping to facilitate coordination and reduce duplication.

History and Legal Basis:

STC is a public organization that was established in 1969 by Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties under Articles 12-B and 5-G of the New York State General Municipal Law. As a regional council, STC seeks to promote coordination among the neighboring counties and to provide a regional approach to those concerns crossing geographic and political boundaries. Successful programs and activities began with the coordination of the long term Agnes flood disaster program and have expanded to a wide variety of program responsibilities to assist both the private and public sectors. Throughout the past 50 years, STC has helped to provide more than \$92 million in grant funding and technical assistance to the region.

Services Provided:

- ▶ Economic Development
- ▶ Community development and technical assistance
- ▶ Local government official training and leadership development, Including the Annual Regional Leadership Conference (1997 to present)
- ▶ Environmental and land use planning
- ▶ Transportation planning
- ▶ Human services planning
- ▶ Water resource management, including flood mitigation
- ▶ Research, Census, and data services
- ▶ Computer technology services
- ▶ Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Assistance with Project Funding

STC is designated as a Local Development District of the Appalachian Regional Commission and an Economic Development District of the Economic Development Administration. These designations enable STC to qualify for special grant funding and project assistance to promote important local economic and community development projects. Elected officials, economic developers, industry

representatives, and area specialists from the three participating counties work with STC to set priorities and recommend projects for funding through STC's Board of Directors and advisory committees. STC's annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), developed with the above resources, serves as the official economic development plan for the region. It provides long range planning that looks at major regional economic issues and provides strategies for future development and implementation.

STC Regional Programs and Activities

Economic Development Planning

Economic development programs and services include strategic planning, technical assistance to communities and agencies for ARC and EDA economic development grants, preparation of county and regional economic profiles, and coordination with economic development agencies and organizations within each of the three counties.



Community Planning

Community planning services include assistance with site planning, subdivision reviews, industrial site development, master plan development, hazard mitigation planning, floodplain management, zoning updates, and environmental reviews. Where appropriate, STC is including energy efficiency-related goals and strategies in its plans in line with the Cleaner Greener Southern Tier plan completed with NYSERDA funding.

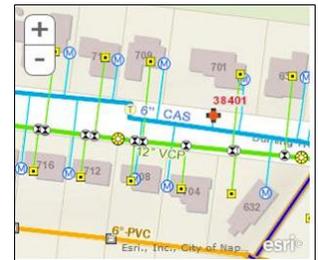
Flood Assistance



STC provides technical assistance to local governments and the public with flood mitigation, flood warning, stormwater management, stream corridor protection, and risk communication. STC works on behalf of the region on flood mapping and flood insurance issues. STC also promotes improved state and federal policies for managing flood risks and reducing future damage.

Transportation Planning

Transportation services include coordination of regional highway, transit, aviation, water and rail transportation planning. STC works closely with the Elmira Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the Schuyler-Steuben Transportation Committee.



Human Services Planning

STC provides planning and technical assistance to communities, agencies and industries in the areas of workforce support, child care, health care, and the development of workforce skills and training. STC prepares a periodic human service needs assessment, provides grant assistance for Appalachian Regional Commission human service proposals, and serves as a clearinghouse for human services information.

Local Government Assistance and Training

Services include targeted information, assistance and training for local government officials and community leaders. An annual Regional Leadership Conference is held, offering training, information, and resources for the region's local government officials.

Telecommunications

Services include planning and coordination of telecommunications infrastructure throughout the region. STC was instrumental in planning and obtaining funds for the Southern Tier Network (STN), a dark fiber backbone running through the three counties. STC continues to support STN as it brings the highest speed broadband



connectivity to the region.

Environmental Planning

STC provides planning and technical assistance to partners involved in protecting and utilizing the region's water resources. This program supports local communities, stormwater coalitions, watershed organizations, county water quality committees, state agencies, and others. STC took the lead on developing an ecosystem-based watershed management plan for the Susquehanna and Chemung Basins of New York. STC works with local communities and coordinates with the Seneca Lake Partners in Five Counties (SLAP-5), the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, Friends of the Chemung River Watershed, and County Water Quality Coordination Committees.

Technical Assistance to Communities



STC provides services to local communities including shared service studies, community surveys, grant development, locally developed projects, and downtown revitalization.

Information Technology Services

STC offers information technology services to local governments and non profit organizations including computer assistance, training, networking, industrial site finder, mapping, and GIS (Geographic Information Systems).

Research and Data Services

STC maintains current information on federal and state grant programs, researches specified subjects and issues, and acts as a regional clearinghouse and NYS Affiliated Data Center for Census information, labor and industry information, and demographic data.



Energy/ Natural Gas Development Services

STC assists with technical support and assistance for county natural gas task forces and assists municipalities as they prepare for potential natural gas industry activities.

Sustainability/Livability Planning

STC staff is prepared to address livability concerns throughout the STC region. The specific focus of these sustainability activities has been to include local sustainability analysis and livability principals in strategies and plans produced by/with STCRPDB.

Contacts:

Agency concerns, telecommunications, and human services contact:

Chelsea Robertson, Executive Director
Extension: 208
Email: crobertson@stcplanning.org.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS), other mapping concerns, and transportation planning contact:

Courtney Cornell
Extension: 205
Email: ccornell@stcplanning.org

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), Economic Development Agency (EDA) funding, or data assistance contact:

Victoria A. Ehlen, Economic Development Coordinator
Extension: 211
Email: vehlen@stcplanning.org

Planning board and zoning board of appeals questions and training, comprehensive planning, dissolution studies, watershed planning, and state grant programs contact:

Stephanie Yezzi, CFM, Planner		Maggie Costello, Planner
Extension: 209	or	Extension 210
Email: syezzi@stcplanning.org		Email: mcostello@stcplanning.org

Flood mitigation and questions and water quality concerns contact:

Janet Thigpen, CFM, Flood Mitigation Specialist
Phone: 607-737-5271
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Technology questions and concerns contact:

Timothy J. Tostanoski, Technology Coordinator
Extension: 203
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Accounting questions and concerns contact:

Brittany McKerlie, Accountant
Extension: 207
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General STC Information contact:

Yvonne Terwilliger, Executive Assistant
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STC can contract with municipalities to perform the following services:

GIS support, asset management, mapping services, environmental planning, water management planning, computer/technology assistance, accounting and administrative services, Brownfield redevelopment studies, consolidation studies, local studies, grants writing, planning/zoning assistance, and comprehensive/master planning assistance. Some of these services are available at a **subsidized rate**.